

• Truth has recently joined beauty in gracing the pages of *Penthouse* magazine. Jim Davidson, Executive Director of the libertarian National Taxpayers Union, now has a monthly column ("View from the Top") in which he poignantly and persuasively states the libertarian case. In one recent issue he mentioned John T. Flynn's masterpiece of political-economic analysis, *As We Go Marching*. Davidson's columns against the welfare-warfare state have been devastating.

• Free Life Editions (41 Union Square West, NYC 10003) has done it again. They have just published Joel Spring's *A Primer of Libertarian Education*, an excellent study of a number of educational issues from an anarchist perspective. The book includes discussions of the ideas of Freire, Neill, Reich, and Stirner. Ivan Illich has placed his moral imprimatur on the book, and word has it, he will help to get it translated into several languages.

• More on Free Life Editions: They have just contracted for a book being written by Roy Childs, *The Permanent Revolution: Liberty Against Power*. Publication is due sometime the first half of next year. (In the meantime, Childs has written an abstract of the book, which can be purchased from Laissez Faire Books, 206 Mercer Street, NYC 10012. This excellent pamphlet is great to hand out as an introduction to libertarianism.) The book will be very important because it places libertarianism clearly within its rightful revolutionary heritage. 1976 will be the perfect year for its publication. Free Life is offering a special pre-publication price for an autographed copy of this most important book. Inquire at the above address.

• *Libertarian Review's* own Karl Pflock has just gone on retainer as a senior editor for Arlington House Publishers. He will be editing and acquiring titles as Arlington's Washington editor. Anyone with a full-blown, thought out (no wishful thinking or half-formed notions) book proposal is invited to write Pflock (an SASE for reply would be appreciated) at 1726 North Veitch Street, Arlington, VA 22201.

• Libertarian philosopher Eric Mack has been appointed associate professor of philosophy at Tulane University in New Orleans. Mack's specialties are natural rights and social philosophy. Louisiana libertarians, how about some southern hospitality for Professor Mack?

• *Freedom Today*, a new magazine of personal freedom and self-liberation, of political and psychological liberation, is being published monthly by RBPRESS. A sample copy is \$1.00 from *Freedom Today*, 4045 E. Palm Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85008. A year's subscription is \$15.

• The business-cycle theories of Mises and Hayek are needed more now than ever. The *Wall Street Journal* has had two recent articles that show just how much. On 20 August, the lead article was "Problem Loans Follow Easy Credit, Causing Headaches for Bankers," by Charles N. Stabler. The author clearly sees the financial problem caused by credit expansion, but he has no theory to explain why the bad loans were initially made. Two days later, the *WSJ's* lead article was Harry B. Anderson's "Price Rise Resurgence Despite Idle Capacity Stirs Debate on Causes." This article is a perfect example of the need for Austrian theory and analysis to explain the current "inflationary recession."

• The St. Louis Fed is at least giving the Hayekian theory a good look. Roger W. Spencer's "Inflation, Unemployment and Hayek" in the May 1975 issue of the *Monthly Bulletin* of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis is an interesting attempt to present and understand the Austrian theory of the cycle. Hopefully, some of the many young Austrian economists will use this article as a touchstone to keep the dialogue going and to get the Austro-libertarian message across.

• Ever since Bill Evers has taken over as the editor of the Libertarian Party's national organ, the *LP News*, it has become quite a good newspaper, chock full of information and analysis. Evers is a top-notch libertarian theorist, and his editing gives a clear sense of direction to the paper and, hopefully, to the party as well. One note of warning, there is much talk of "victory" and "winning" in the pages of the *LP News*. This seems rather curious and somewhat premature given the minuscule size of the party. What sort of victory? What constitutes winning? Winning and the organizational inner-machinations have historically often become more important than the initial ideological and educational purpose of most political parties. But as long as Evers and people of his quality are at the helm, this should not prove to be an overwhelming problem.

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Readers, Authors, Reviewers

(p. 76). And he firmly rejects fatalism, according to which, since "everything must finally come to a preordained end," "it is useless for man to act" (p. 79). But, he insists, "Those theologians who thought that in order to refute fatalism they must adopt the free-will doctrine were badly mistaken" (pp. 81-2).

Arguing along lines similar to those of Walter Kaufmann's *Without Guilt and Justice*, Mises even applies his determinist views to the problem of criminal punishment: "The metaphysical notions of guilt, sin, and retribution are incompatible with the doctrine of determinism" (p. 83). But getting rid of these notions poses no problem for a utilitarian like Mises: "Utilitarian ethics approaches the problem of punishment from a different angle. The offender is not punished because he is bad and deserves chastisement but so that neither he nor other people will repeat the offense. . . . Legislators and judges are not the mandataries of a metaphysical retributive justice. . . . Hence it is possible to deal with the problem of determinism without being troubled by inane considerations concerning the penal code" (p. 83).

"What the sciences of human actions must reject," Mises concludes, "is not determinism but the positivistic and panphysicalistic distortion of determinism" (p. 93).

To me, these passages—and there are many more like them—appear unmistakable. I would like to know by what process of reasoning Rothbard interprets them as even consistent with the free-will doctrine—let alone as a "defense" of that doctrine.

ROBERT MASTERS
Maple Falls, Wash.

A Rave Notice

John Hospers has been writing his music reviews for *LR* for I don't know how long. The only explanation I can give for the absence of volumes of mail commending his work is that people just don't know how to praise it.

The writing, first of all, is superb—clear, lucid, calm with occasional and well placed spots of

flare—and the knowledge is overwhelming. Then there seems always to be another piece for next time, so why not wait for it instead of raving about those gone by!

Still, it is about time that readers acknowledge the great contribution Hospers has made to their education and pleasure with this marvelous offering in *LR*. I for one, thank him most sincerely.

TIBOR R. MACHAN
Palo Alto, Calif.

Of Pots and Kettles

My attention was called to Jarret Wollstein's review of *Crimes Without Victims* (*LR*, June 1975), in which he faults the author as follows:

Schur also contributes to the stigmatization of homosexuals, drugs addicts, and women who abort, whom he demeans by continually calling their actions "deviances," "problems," etc. Never does he seriously consider the possibility that these actions may be entirely good and proper. After all, they threaten the status quo, which Schur seems to equate in general with the "social good."

Mr. Schur's book was published in 1965 and has been very helpful to the homophile movement over the years, despite its retrospectively conservative approach. May I remind your readers of the following editorial which was published in the May 1970 issue of *The Individualist* under Jarret Wollstein's editorship:

Women

Rothbard is right. The women's liberation nonsense has gotten out of hand. The sad thing is that the influence of the anti-sexist blather is not confined to a few raucous females. Portions of the women's lib doctrine are spreading among otherwise intelligent women. If present trends continue, militant lesbianism will be added to the other dangers of urban living.

Sane women, you are beautiful. Heterosexual love has perennially added to the appreciation of life. With society in the grip of every sort of insanity, let's not let female beauty slip away. Show how you feel. The *Individualist* is making available, free of charge, "Rothbard is right" buttons. Send for yours today.

Now, what was that old cliché about the hypocrisy of the pot calling the kettle black?

ROSALIE NICHOLS
Editor, *Lesbian Voices*
San Jose, Calif.

Please note that I did not write the "editorial" on women appearing in the May 1970 issue of the *Individualist*. James Davidson, then publisher of the *Individualist*, wrote it and inserted it in the magazine without my prior knowledge or permission.

. . . I was and am totally opposed to the sexist, stupid sentiments expressed therein. . . .

JARRET B. WOLLSTEIN
Alexandria, Va.

Knowledge Fiction

It's good to see you're taking sf seriously, not as a mere vehicle to spread libertarianism. Starting with Heinlein—a safe bet—you have pushed the crack open wider with reviews of *The Dispossessed*, *Frankenstein*, and *Lord of the Rings*. With Sturgeon's entertaining essay-review, you have strayed further from the limited turf of "libertarian sf" into strange, new territory for *LR*. Congratulations! "Knowledge fiction" has a much wider scope, and I, for one, hope you make use of it. There is certainly a market for it among libertarians.

BRUCE RAMSEY
Berkeley, Calif.

Laissez faire BOOKS

BOOKS REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE

AMERICA'S GREAT DEPRESSION by Murray Rothbard	\$12.00/4.95
THE GREAT DEPRESSION by Lionel Robbins	\$12.50
OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY by Stanley Milgram (Paperback due in Nov., \$3.45)	\$10.00
THE FEDERAL RATHOLE by Donald Lambro	\$7.95
ESCAPE FROM CHILDHOOD by John Holt	\$1.75
WILL IT GROW IN THE CLASSROOM? by R. & B. Gross	\$3.25
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ON GUARD: THE BUSINESS OF PRIVATE SECURITY by Lipson	\$10.00

Books unavailable at this time:
 THE ECONOMICS OF INFLATION
 BANKING AND THE BUSINESS CYCLE
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